

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 061830Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2820

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 7421

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, XF, LE

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN LEBANON

REF JIDDA 6949

1. I DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THIS AFTERNOON WITH SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD THE CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION. I SAID WE WERE CONCERNED THAT THE CURRENT TENSE CEASEFIRE MIGHT BREAK DOWN AND SAID WE HOPED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS DOING ALL POSSIBLE TO HELP THE LEBANESE SITUATION STABILIZE. WE HOPE PARTICULARLY THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD USE ITS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE TO MODERATE POSITIONS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND THE SYRIANS.

2. SAUD SAID THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS AT LEAST AS CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANON AS WAS THE UNITED STATES; THAT IT WAS DOING ALL IT COULD WITH ALL ARAB FACTIONS

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TO HELP RESTORE ORDER IN LEBANON. HE ASKED WHAT WE

WERE DOING. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE UTILITY IN SEEING WHO WAS PROFITTING BY THE LEBANESE REVOLUTION AND ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION BY SAYING "IT'S YOUR FRIENDS, ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION." HE SAID THAT THE SAUDIS KNEW THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE LEBANESE STRIFE (HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL), AND ASKED IF WE HAD PUT ANY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION TO DESIST.

3. I SAID THAT I KNEW OF NO APPROACH TO ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION APART FROM OUR GENERAL WARNING TO OUTSIDE POWERS TO REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING IN LEBANON. THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY APPLY TO ISRAEL, USSR, SYRIA AND LIBYA, OR ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT INTERFERE. HE ASKED WHAT DETAILS I HAD ABOUT THIS "WARNING." I TOLD HIM I KNEW ONLY WHAT I HAD READ IN THE PRESS ACCOUNTS. I DID NOT KNOW IF WE HAD MADE ANY SPECIFIC APPROACH TO ANY SPECIFIC COUNTRY.

4. SAUD SAID THERE WERE WIDESPREAD REPORTS THAT THE SAG WAS HELPING THE PHALANGISTS. I SAID I HAD HEARD THAT ALSO. THE PRINCE SAID THEY WERE COMPLETELY UNTRUE. SAUDI WAS GIVING NO RPT NO SUPPORT TO ANY OF THE FIGHTING FACTIONS. HE SAID THEY HAD, HOWEVER, GIVEN SUPPORT TO THE LEBANESE ARMY AND HE ASSUMED WE WOULD APPROVE OF THIS. (COMMENT: SAUDI ARABIA, OF COURSE, IS GIVING CONSIDERABLY REGULAR ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIANS.)

5. SAUD SAID, AS HE HAD BEFORE, THAT HE STRONGLY BELIEVED THE ONLY WAY OF PRESERVING ORDER IN LEBANON WOULD BE THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF AN INTERARAB FORCE INVITED INTO LEBANON BY ALL THE MAJOR LEBANESE PARTIES. AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CEASEFIRE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA07421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750386-0448
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751169/aaaacjkc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 JIDDA 6949
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, SA, XF, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006